

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00453 131938Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 FEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01

NEA-09 INT-05 STR-01 /090 W
----- 013287

R 131521Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6119

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 0453

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, UR, US, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S. USE OF FORCE AGAINST OIL
PRODUCERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00453 131938Z

USIA: FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 0271

1. SUMMARY: AFTER A HESITANT BEGINNING THE SOVIET PRESS HAS USED THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ABOUT POSSIBLE MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS TO MOUNT A HEAVY PROPAGANDA BROADSIDE AGAINST U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AND RESOURCE POLICIES. IZVESTIAY CHIEF FOREIGN EDITOR GRIGORYANTS (JANUARY 8) IN MOST BROADBASED ATTACK CHARGED THAT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT REFLECTS A U.S. TACTIC DIRECTED AT BREAKING THIRD-WORLD PRODUCER CARTELS AND AT EXPLOITING THE ENERGY CRISIS TO INCREASE U.S. POLITICAL CONTROL OVER EUROPE AND JAPAN. THE SAME THEME WAS HEARD IN A TV NEWS COMMENTARY ON THE POPULAR EVENING NEWS PROGRAM VREMYA JANUARY 9. COMMENTARIES WITH NARROWER FOCUS (PRAVDA JANUARY 7 AND SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA JANUARY 8) ALLEGED THAT THE CURRENT WESTERN CAMPAIGN OF "MILITARY BLACKMAIL" AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS, IS INSPIRED BY U.S. OIL MONOPOLIES INTERESTED IN PRESERVING THEIR PROFITS. GRIGORYANTS AND VOLSKIY IN NEW TIMES (JANUARY 10) ALSO PORTRAYED THE "PRO-ISRAELI BLOCK" IN THE U.S. AS ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, PUBLIC COMMENT SO FAR HAS NOT HINTED THAT THE USSR TAKES SERIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION AND THE PRESS HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED SUGGESTION OF HOW THE USSR WOULD REACT TO SUCH A HYPOTHETICAL DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE SOVIET PRESS HAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS AND HAS MOUNTED A HEAVY PROAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BUSINESS WEEK REMARKS. THE CAMPAIGN BEGAN CAUTIOUSLY. FIRST REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW (PRAVDA, JANUARY 4)--POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS CRITICIZING CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON U.S.-SOVIET TRADE--DID NOT REPORT HIS ALLUSION TO THE USE OF FORCE, MENTIONING ONLY U.S. "PRESSURE" TO REDUCE OIL PRICES. PRAVDA (JANUARY 5) REPORTED THAT THE SECRETARY, " IN ONE OF HIS INTERVIEWS" (ARTICLE DID NOT SAY IT WAS THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW) HAD REMARKED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT USE MILITARY MEASURES AGAINST ARAB OIL PRODUCERS, BUT IT ONLY REPLAYED CRITICAL COMMENT ON THE SUGGESTION FROM WESTERN AND ARAB CAPITALS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00453 131938Z

3. FIRST DIRECT SOVIET COMMENT (PRAVDA COMMENTARY, JANUARY 6) TOOK A FAIRLY RESTRAINED LINE. PRAVDA ASSERTED THAT TALK ABOUT MILITARY INTERVENTION (SECRETARY WAS CITED) IS PART OF A WESTERN CAMPAIGN TO PRESSURE OIL PRODUCERS TO LOWER THEIR PRICES. COMMENTATOR (MEDVENKO) REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE WEST'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY HIGH OIL PRICES, SAID THAT THE ATTEMPTS BY CONSUMERS TO FORM A CONSUMER BLOC

OR TO EMPLOY GUNBOAT POLITICS ARE DESTINED TO FAIL, AND CONCLUDED THAT THE WAR TALK IS CONTRARY TO POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL TENDENCIES.

4. GRIGORYANTS (IZVESTIAY, JANUARY 8) EXPANDED THE PARAMETERS OF U.S. PERFIDY BEYOND THE LIMITS OF U.S. MONOPOLY INTERESTS. HE ALLEGED THAT POLITICAL AND MILITARY-STRATEGIC PLANS LIE BEHIND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT. ACCORDING TO GRIGORYANTS THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ARE PART OF A "CAREFULLY PLANNED U.S. TACTIC" TO USE CONFRONTATION WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS TO ACCOMPLISH BROAD U.S. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. THE U.S. CAMPAIGN, HE ASSERTED, IS ONLY PARTIALLY EXPLAINED BY THE EFFORTS OF U.S. OIL CORPORATIONS TO DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS AND BY THE PRESSURE OF THE PRO-ISRAELI LOBBY TO ADD AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO THE MONEY AND SUPPLIES THE U.S. HAS PUT AT THE SERVICE OF ISRAEL'S "EXPANSIONIST POLICY." BROADER CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, GRIGORYANTS CHARGED, ARE THE U.S. DESIRE TO BREAK OPEC AND TO EXPLOIT THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE WEST'S FINANCIAL-MONETARY PROBLEMS TO "STRENGTHEN ITS OWN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN RELATION TO EUROPE." (VREMYA NEWS COMMENTARY, JANUARY 9, CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY WAS ALSO DEVOTED TO THE EUROPEAN THEME.) IN THIS CONTEXT, GRIGORYANTS CLAIMED THAT THE SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW IS A "NEW ESCALATION IN AMERICA'S POLICY OF PRESSURE" ON THE OIL PRODUCERS AND ITS ALLIES. THE INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT, GRIGORYANTS SAID, SHOWS THAT WORLD OPINION REJECTS THE VERY IDEA OF USING FORCE TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. THREATS TO USE PHANTOMS, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, AND AIRBORNE FORCES, HE CONTINUED, SOUND LIKE AN ANACHRONISM AND AN "EVIL ECHO OF COLONIAL USURPERS."

5. PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW BY YAKHONTOV (JANUARY 12) FOCUSED CRITICISM ON THE ME. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW PRAVDA ALLEGED THAT THE ARAB STATES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 00453 131938Z

THREATENED WITH MILITARY INTERVENTION "IF THEY CONTINUE THEIR INDEPENDENT POLICY IN THE EXTRACTION AND SALE OF OIL," AND THE REVIEW CHARGED THAT THESE RECENT STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON HAD POURED OIL ON THE VOLATILE ME SITUATION. YAKHONTOV ALSO ASSERTED THAT MANY EUROPEANS HAVE TAKEN THE "AMERICAN DEMARCHE" AS AN ATTEMPT TO WARM THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE REJECTED THEIR FORMER UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR U.S. OIL AND ME POLICIES.

6. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO HINT IN ALL THIS THAT THE USSR SERIOUSLY EXPECTS THE U.S. TO ENGAGE IN MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST THE OIL PRODUCERS. THE PRESS HAS ALSO BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION OF WHAT MOSCOW MIGHT DO WERE U.S. ACTION TO MATERIALIZE. PRAVDA JANUARY 8 REPLAY OF ARAFAT'S COMMENT IN BEIRUT, FOR EXAMPLE, OMITTED HIS REFERENCE TO THE SUPPORT OF "POWERFUL ALLIES" IN THE EVENT OF ANY ACTION AGAINST THE ARAB

OIL STATES. NOR HAS THE SOVIET PRESS SUGGESTED THAT A U.S.-
SOVIET CONFRONTATION IS POTENTIALLY DEVELOPING OVER THE CURRENT
ALLEGED U.S. MILITARY BLACKMAIL. SOVIET REACTION, RATHER,
APPEARS TO REFLECT A DECISION TO CAPITALIZE ON WHAT THE SOVIETS
EVIDENTLY PERCEIVE AS A PROPAGANDA WINDFALL. IN THIS CONTEXT,
IT IS A PART OF THE INCREASED CHORUS OF ANTI- U.S. MATERIAL
IN THE SOVIET MEDIA (REFTEL) DISTINGUISHED FROM THE REST
PRIMARILY BY ITS SHARP DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY.

STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, PETROLEUM, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW00453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750013-0157
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750157/aaaabybm.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 0271
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS ON U.S. USE OF FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, UR, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006